

storage means for storing a database including information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents in the past,

acquisition means for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated;

means for deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed; and

duplication means for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition means and the temporal data held in said storage means wherein duplication of said contents is prohibited if said discriminating information has already been stored in said database and copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information has not been allowed.

2. (Amended) An information processing method comprising:

a storage step for storing information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents in the past;

an acquisition step for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated;

a decision step for deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed; and

a duplication step for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition step and the temporal data held as a consequence of said storage step wherein duplication of said contents is prohibited if said discriminating information has already been stored in said database and copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information has not been allowed.

3. (Amended) A program storage medium having stored therein a computer-readable program, said program comprising:

a storage step for storing information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents in the past;

an acquisition step for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated;

a decision step for deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed; and

a duplication step for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition step and the temporal data held as a consequence of said storage step wherein duplication of said contents is prohibited if said discriminating information has already been stored in said database and copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information has not been allowed.

4. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein said contents are reproduced from an information storage medium.

5. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 4 wherein said information recording medium is a compact disc memorizing the music information.

6. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code).

7. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the TOC (Table of Contents).

8. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein